

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 7, 2020

Florida Surgeon General Scott Rivkees  
Florida Department of Health  
4052 Bald Cypress Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Dr. Rivkees:

I am writing to respectfully request that the Florida Department of Health give consideration to partnering with Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) to assist in establishing a COVID-19 drive-thru testing facility in the Miami-Dade County region of Kendall.

As you may know, Kendall is located in Eastern Miami-Dade and is home to over 75,000 Floridians. At this point in time, aside from regular healthcare facilities, there are no accessible COVID-19 testing sites in Kendall. The nearest testing location to the area is the Doris Ison Health Center in South Dade, which is over a twenty-minute drive for much of the Kendall population. This is incredibly concerning to me, especially because nearly a fifth of the population is over the age of 65.

In response to the current situation in Kendall, CHI has expressed to my office that it is willing to provide for this need. CHI has exhibited the capacity to handle this request, as it has already established two facilities in our district: one in Cutler Bay conducting no-appointment needed drive-thru testing, and one in Marathon by appointment only. Up to present, they have screened 2,800 and tested more than 850 South Floridians.

I urge the Florida Department of Health to work with CHI to facilitate the construction of a drive-thru site and provide critical resources and supplies as needed to expedite the establishment of accessible testing in Kendall. As South Florida has emerged as another epicenter of the virus in the country, Miami-Dade is a particular hot zone, holding a third of the confirmed cases in the state. Areas like Kendall need more reachable testing options in order to identify, isolate, and break the chains of COVID-19 transmission. CHI is a well-trusted community partner that is equipped and prepared to do what it can to provide testing for the community of Kendall and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 throughout Florida.

Sincerely,



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Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress